



Tribal Relations in Montana State Parks



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Park Division Background

- Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- 53 state parks, 328 fishing access sites, trails programs.
- Staff located statewide.

7 Key Heritage Parks

- Chief Plenty Coups
- Council Grove
- First Peoples Buffalo Jump
- Madison Buffalo Jump
- Pictograph Cave
- Rosebud Battlefield
- Travelers' Rest

Chief Plenty Coups State Park

- 192 acres
- 1928 Deed for “...the Crow Tribe of Indians and white people jointly...”
- 40,000 visits annually
- Special events and Interpretation

Facilities and Activities



- Original House/Store
- Visitor Center
- Playground
- Large picnic area
- Collections

Culturally significant



Outcomes



- Strong relationships
- Economic support
- Community involvement ongoing
- Culturally accepted

Rosebud Battlefield State Park

- 1978 purchased of about 3000 acres
- Many features – Great significance.
- June 17, 1876 Battle
- Important to many cultures
- Limited management presence



Planning process



- Collaborative Process
- First Mgt. Plan
- Strong emphasis on relationships
- Flexible on timeline
- Focus on learning

Path to plan completion

- Early consultation with GAIN Council and tribal officials.
- Honest communication.
- Flexible and open minded process.
- Visited with and listened openly.
- Meetings held in communities.
- Seen as a beginning not an ending.

Keys to Parks Success

- Develop relationships
- Learn Culture
- Listen well
- Understand government and community
- Stay flexible
- Be inclusive
- Be honest and fair
- Respect tradition
- Don't take ourselves too seriously.

Questions?

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